

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01

/060 W

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R 291431Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5286

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, BE

SUBJECT: SPAIN: POST-FRANCO TRANSITION AND PLANS FOR REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL/SUCCESSION CEREMONIES

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE (RONSE) TOLD US OCTOBER 28 THAT BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME FREEDOM OF ACTION TOWARDS SPAIN AS SOME OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. CITING TRADITIONAL REASONS-STRONG BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY, VIGOROUS TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS, VIVID MEMORIES OF SPANISH CIVIL WAR-HE SAID BELGIUM HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MOVE TOWARDS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SPAIN WHILE FRANCO IN POWER. RONSE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT BELGIUM, ALONG WITH OTHER EC-9 NATIONS, WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH OUT TO POST-FRANCO SPAIN AND DRAW HER BACK INTO THE EUROPEAN FAMILY. RONSE SAID BRUSSELS HAS NO PARTICULAR INSIGHTS ON COURSE OF EVENTS IN SPAIN AFTER

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FRANCO'S DEATH. HE SAID GOB HOPES CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES

WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND A MORE LIBERAL,
MORE REPRESENTATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD EMERGE
UNDER JUAN CARLOS.

2. REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL/SUCCESSION CEREMONIES-RONSE
SAID THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS PREVENT BELGIUM
FROM SENDING HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO FUNERAL OR SUCCESSION
CEREMONIES. HE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED ON "MINIMAL CORRECT"
REPRESENTATION AT EACH EVENT: THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID
TO FUNERAL AND SUCCESSION CEREMONIES (WITH SPECIAL CREDENTIALS
IF NECESSARY). THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HERE IN BRUSSELS WILL CALL
ON SPANISH AMBASSADOR AND SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK.

3. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL (RITTWEGER DE MOOR) TOLD US EVENING OF
OCTOBER 28 THAT SPANISH PLAN TO HOLD SUCCESSION CEREMONIES ON
THIRD DAY AFTER FRANCO'S DEATH AND FRANCO FUNERAL ON FOURTH
DAY, THUS LINKING THESE TWO CEREMONIES CLOSELY IN TIME. HE SAID
THAT MEANT BELGIAN REPRESENTATION HAD TO BE THE SAME FOR BOTH
EVENTS AND THAT EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDED HIGH-LEVEL (THE KING?)
REPRESENTATION AT JUAN CARLOS' OATH-TAKING.FIRESTONE

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